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# 100 HOMESCHOOL HACKS

To Make Home Education Effective,  
Efficient, Enthusiastic, and Easy!



Compiled By Meredith Curtis & Laura Nolette

COMPILED BY MEREDITH CURTIS & LAURA NOLETTE

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# Our Homeschool Moms & Grads Who Share Their Wisdom



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COMPILED BY MEREDITH CURTIS & LAURA NOLETTE

## 5 Lifestyle of Learning Hacks



1. **Cultivate a sense of wonder in your children.** Wake up each morning with an enthusiasm. “I wonder what will happen today?” “I wonder what we’ll learn today?”
2. **Fill your house with beautiful, fascinating books of all kinds:** biographies, historical fiction, living science books, picture books for all ages, classics, novels, mysteries. If your children likes a series—buy every book in it!
3. **Meet interesting people who do interesting things** and visit them while they do those interesting things.
4. **Be an investigative reporter.** Ask: What, where, who, when, why, and how?
5. **Travel, explore, get up and go.** Field trips, vacations, hikes, treks, adventures. Learn on your adventures!

## 5 Tips on Organization & Scheduling



1. **Have a shelf for each student to keep their books & Keep shared books and supplies in a central location.** If possible, don't put any of these in bedrooms. That's how books get lost. We used a commercial kitchen rolling shelving unit which had bins. We kept it in the hallway, so everybody knew where to find everything they needed. My friend used a small 3 drawer plastic "file cabinet" kind of a thing for each student.
2. **Train everybody to put things away when they finish with them & lead by example.** Don't allow yourself to get frustrated by repeating yourself. Just do it. It takes a long time to form a new habit and even longer to break a bad habit. If children see Mom and Dad always putting things back where they belong, they are more likely to pick up the habit. When anybody finds an item in the wrong place, remind them to put it back where it belongs when they are finished. Remember, and remind your family, the goal is to keep things where they belong so everybody can find them next time.
3. **Purchase all books, materials, & supplies needed for the year before classes start.** There is nothing worse than a reading assignment being due before the book arrives in the mail, or you have time to go to the library. It's much easier to have all the books and supplies in the house than it is to track everybody's assignments so that you can get them in time to do the work.
4. **Use a calendar for each student, divide books up and write assignments in the calendar annually, monthly, or weekly.** I did this every summer. If I didn't plan out the whole year before it started, we very quickly got behind schedule. In the beginning I used a paper calendar that I had printed on 2 pages per month.



Later I discovered Google Calendar. That and Apple Calendar both allow you to create multiple calendars, which I named for the student and subject (ie. JHist = Josh's History) Here is an example of how I divide up books. In the 9 months we do school, my son needs to read 9 literature books for one class. Book #1 has 174 pages and September has 21 reading days. 174 divided by 21 is 8.3 so he must read 9 pages a day for the first 20 days. The last day he won't have to read as many. Some students can stay on track if they know what needs to get accomplished through the week. Some parents like to look at and schedule one month at a time.

5. **Put daily schedules in writing for mom and each student.** We do what Meredith calls, "block scheduling". Because we don't know exactly how long each subject will take on a given week, we set out large blocks of our days to do multiple tasks. We know right up front that everybody needs to get up, eat breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and go to bed so we set those events as brackets. Set a wake-up time. Set chores that must be done first thing, like quiet times, brushing teeth and hair, and making the bed. Then they can eat breakfast. After they clean up their breakfast mess, they do math, science, and history. Those subjects must all get attention before lunch. After they clean up their lunch mess it's time to tackle writing, literature, and foreign language. This is just an example. It's best to begin with the "hardest" classes, the ones they fight the most against. Make sure that they do math every day, and any foreign languages they are studying as well. We had a different schedule for each day of the week. Don't be surprised if you find that you need to do that as well.

## 5 Tips to Teach Little Ones to Read



1. **Read every day from birth.** Make reading emotionally bonding, read together to comfort, reassure, reward. And as a side note, minimize or totally avoid television and other screen time. The learning benefits don't outweigh the drawbacks to their attention span. Get good picture books w engaging rhymes and entertaining stories. Use Indestructibles and board books for babies. Reading comprehension starts with pointing to pictures and asking questions about them. Then you can move on to talking about characters in story. Next, talk about the story itself. Around 3 years of age, start telling stories. This helps them engage with stories that don't have pictures. Move on to longer stories and chapter books with some pictures. My son Cooper enjoys listening to the Boxcar Children.
2. **Play sound games.** Animal sounds are great for babies. Help children sound out new words. Use Rhymes and rhyming games to prepare for phonemic awareness.
3. **Teach phonemic** awareness before phonics. Phonics is associating letters w sounds. Phonemic awareness is learning about...phonemes. Phonemes are the sounds that make up all the words in our language. About 70 in our language, though only 26 letters and 46 (I believe) letter configurations (thus including things like CH, SH, etc). Learning to hear syllables is the first step. You can clap the syllables in words like man, soccer, playground, happy, and reading. Blending compound words, then blending syllables, and finally blending sounds will allow you to move forward with phonemic awareness. Next comes identifying initial and final sounds in words and finally work on segmenting words. I have really enjoyed using Sounds Abound for this. Daily activity w same story for a month. My three-year old son Cooper can clap syllables and sometimes rhyme. My four-

year old Rusty can segment and blend two syllable words. Keep phonemic awareness going separately from phonics when you do start phonics.

4. **Introduce letter sounds FIRST when you start teaching letters.** Research shows teaching letter names first creates the most later spelling issues later on for kids. I recommend combining relaxed fun games and formal instruction to teach all the letters and diphthongs. Sit down and introduce the letter and its primary sound or all its sounds. ABC books are great! Try one letter a week with stickers, photos, and drawings. Practice tracing letter w dry erase letters, books, etc. Combine teaching letters with laid-back fun games: Find the Letter on the Fridge or in the Tub; I Spy; Musical Letters; Bingo; Hopscotch; and Go Fish. Children like to match upper and lowercase letters. I used *Delightful Reading* from Simply Charlotte Mason and adapted it per my own research, mainly just using the games. Songs are helpful but be careful of using a word (a a apple) as another substitute for the letter name. Be sure to focus on sound. Have a big poster up on wall as something for reference with the games.
5. **Lastly, recent research encourages having children form the words from sounds first rather than read it.** So we segment the sounds in HOT, a word using the letters we know so far. Have him point to the letter card that makes each sound....ta da! He made a word. Then he reads the word to you. After doing that a bit, then make the word and he reads it. Transitioning to reading words on a page is encouraged by looking for letters you're learning on cereal boxes and picture books you're reading.

## 3 Ways to Raise a Musician



1. **Create a rich musical environment.** Begin singing to your child from the start. As they get older, ask questions and comment about the music they are listening to like "what instruments do you hear?" And "i love the sound of the piano in this song" Expose your children to different styles of music, especially classical music. You can do this by finding books on music at your library, or listening to different style of music by streaming it or go to live concerts in your area.
2. **For smaller children, make music fun.** If they are toddlers you can help them clap or move their legs to the beat. If they are a bit older, dance with them and song along. You can also have them have a stuffed animal sing and dance. Incorporate musical games into their classes like name that tune or finish the song
3. **Enroll your children in music lessons.** This can be either a group or private lessons.  
Also be involved in their lessons by listening to then practice at home. Also encourage them to put on performances for your family with either dance or playing songs they have learned.

## 5 Ways to Build a Home Library



1. **Start with a list of books that you want to add to your home library.** I use the free reading lists at JoyfulandSuccessfulHomeschooling.com (<http://www.joyfulandsuccessfulhomeschooling.com/books/reading-lists/>)
2. **Don't just buy just for now, think about the future.** Begin collecting today the books your children will need when they are older. I'm collecting chapter books for my six-year-old that are years ahead.
3. **Use a library app to keep track of your books.** There are many library apps out there. The app I use uses my camera to scan the bar code to keep track of all my books. The problem is when you have lots of old books without barcodes.
4. **Look for good deals!** You can find good deals on E-bay for large sets of books. I find great deals on books at used curriculum sales. Another place I visit is Good Will, library sales, and used book stores. Finally, I shop online. Abe Books (<https://www.abebooks.com/>) and Thrift Books (<https://www.thriftbooks.com/>) are great places to find deals online, as well as Facebook book groups. Also, our library has a section in it where they sell used books. I am always on the hunt for good, classic literature.
5. Ask for books as gifts for birthdays and Christmas for myself and the kids. Let people know that you don't mind receiving used books as presents.

# 10 Helpful Patterns & Habits



1. **Daily Quiet Times.** Setting aside time each day to meet with the Lord is worth every amount of discipline it takes. Reading the Word, praying, and worshipping builds an intimacy with God that allows you to walk closer and closer to Jesus for all of your days.
2. **5 Things.** Each morning our children had to do five things before they came down to breakfast. They brushed their teeth & hair, got dressed, made their bed, straightened their room, and read their Bible. These 5 habits go a long way in getting your day off to a good start for the rest of your life!
3. **Greeting each other in the morning is such a great way to start the day.** "Good morning!" is so simple, but it communicates love and helps fill the house with good cheer.
4. **Starting school time with math is like a workout for the mind.** It wakes the brain up and gets the blood flowing.
5. **Reading for pleasure instead of watching TV or a movie.** Reading makes your brain and imagination work.
6. **Work first, play second.** This is a great habit for all ages. Get the hard stuff out of the way first. Complete your chores, schoolwork, and obligations first; then play outside, read a book, watch a movie, play on your phone, or take photos to post on Instagram.
7. **Plug into your Local Church.** Don't just attend on Sunday mornings. Get to know people and build friendships. Pray for the leaders and people in the congregation. Serve. Get involved in a home group.
8. **Tithe and Live on a Budget.** Finances really trip adults up because most adults never learned how to budget their money. Give back to the Lord what is His (tithe) and remember the rest is His, too, but you get to decide how it's spent. Honor the Lord in how you save, spend, and give. Teach even little children to do this.

9. **If you Make a Mess, Clean it Up.** How simple those words sound, but imagine if everyone in your home, or better yet our nation, cleaned up their messes, wiped down the counters, paid off their debts, and restored relationships.
10. **Do Everything with Excellence.** Give your best in all that you do without being critical of yourself. To walk in excellence and confidence is a great blessing.

## 5 Ways to Motivate your High Schoolers to Get Their Schoolwork Done



1. **Though children and teens should do their schoolwork out of honor for their parents no matter, the best way to lead someone is to win their respect.** So, let the Lord love your children through you. Your love is finite, but God's love is infinite. By winning their respect and loving them, teens will be more motivated to do what you ask them to do.
2. **Find out what motivates your specific child.** It could be that they're motivated by being around people, or by tasks, or by the learning journey. Every child is different. Don't assume what motivates you will motivate them.
3. **If social activities motivate your teen, add that to your studies** through co-ops, studying with another family, or work together on classes as a family.
4. **If they are task oriented, teach them to make lists and check them off.** Teach them strategies to get things done efficiently. I have always loved making a list and checking it off. If your child loves the thrill of discovery, give them things to explore, investigate, and take apart—not just when they are little, but into the high school years.
5. **Teach teens to honor the Lord with their school.** God created all things and every subject points to Him. God created the laws of thermodynamics, logic principles, and math truths. All of life is about doing things for the glory of God.



# 10 Tips for Teaching Preschoolers and Toddlers



1. **Read, read, read.** Get good picture books. Talk about them. Interact with pictures. Let reading books spark their ideas for further learning. Start reading aloud at birth. Annie brings us *Hello Farm* over and over every day and sits in a chair to read to herself. They all read to themselves. Tell stories. Let them narrate and share thoughts on the story, give pauses. Stretch them with longer books. Chapter books can be read aloud around 3 or 4 if you make it fun with a snack or snuggle!
2. **Create your children's environment and schedule to allow for and encourage creative free play.** Cut screen time, completely if possible. Set up an Easel and keep art supplies handy to use. Have a big tote of dress up clothes. Instead of electronic toys, have your children play with problem solving and creative toys, blocks, music makers, stuffed animals and dolls, stacking toys, shape sorter toys, cars, and balls.
3. **Organize boxes and drawers with motor skill, math skills** (matching, sorting, patterning, sequencing), numbers, colors and shapes for easy access. Just pull one out for the day. Here are some ideas: stringing, cutting, tracing, play dough, play in water, play in sand or rice, straws and containers w holes punched in. Math Ideas: Photos of different ages to sort, matching cards, shapes in different sizes and colors to sort by size or shape, different color buttons and bowls w lids w holes in top.

4. **Outdoor and nature time.** Play! Throw and kick ball, climb trees, playground. Explore nature. Encourage learning by asking questions. Use a magnifying glass and get excited about bugs, birds, leaves, snake skins. Take a sound walk, a smell walk, or a texture walk. Show and tell and one minute study.
5. **Numbers!** Count everything, pictures, real things, silverware, activities (jumps, hops, steps). Make or buy big number cards and teach numbers. Use the number cards to match to toys or candy. Many games and toys have numbers on them. Turn them into games...catch the number 3 fish only, find all the 3's and put them in the puzzle, now the 2's. There are many great counting books, especially the Over in the Meadow, Over in the Jungle, Over in the Savannah series with beautiful artwork, great animals, and fun counting!
6. **Take advantage of great learning opportunities all around you.** Stop and look at birds building their nest on your daily (or weekly!) walk. Visit your library's weekly story time and pick out new books for the week. Get a zoo pass. Visit different playgrounds in your area You will meet new people, have new play sets to challenge gross motor skills, and see new sights: the lake, different trees, or a house under construction.
7. **Make routine part of your life and make it work for you.** It's so important to be flexible and to simplify expectations with little ones. Between diapers and tantrums, breakfast and bath can take hours. Avoid rigid routines that make you all frustrated. But children do need and thrive on routines. Develop bedtime and nap time routines (some children need more routine than others...the exact same three stories in exact same order), as well as morning routines. Weekly patterns help too. Baking together can slip through the cracks if Monday is laundry and Friday is grandma day and we don't intentionally do it on Thursday or Tuesday. Here is our routine: Mon laundry and school, Tues library and playground (or church co-op), Wed Grandpa day and Life Group and learning activities, Thurs Co-op w Sarah, Fri nature study and Y day and Grand-Merey's house, Sat dad day and tea party after nap. They love this and it gives rhythm and security. Rigid morning routines cause us stress. A weekly list of Bible time passages, theme, memory verses, read aloud books, art and creative time, songs and finger play, math skills, motor or skills, nature theme and outdoor activities, color and shapes activities, Rusty math and phonics and Cooper learning activities helps me. Ideally that all just happens and I stay flexible as their interest leads. Mommy and Rusty time drawing, cutting and gluing, making rockets and robots, reading chapter books. Ignore motor skill plans and reading, etc. Cooper helping in kitchen and with chores every meal. Most learning when not forced. But schedule mostly for me as I otherwise w 3 babies won't have one on one time with littles and won't make baking or messy art a weekly thing. This also keeps my ideas going for

those activities. Some of our activities are structured, some as they have an interest.

8. **Unit studies for toddlers!** I theme everything to our picture books. This year we are focusing on heroes because of our battle against superhero obsession (fighting, self-sufficiency rather than dependence on Jesus, and getting “powers” outside of Christ problematic is to me)...rockets and astronauts, knights and kings and castles, around the world, each continent, w explorers and famous missionaries and Christians, community helpers, cowboys and Wild West. My goal was storybooks and creative activities (motor skills and math skills easily fit in as does phonemic awareness like in Sounds Abound) that sparked playtime w each other that was creative and fun and not superheroes. It’s working! This year I’m working on more than one theme due to nature study and a fun fruit of the spirit curriculum I found, but usually I like just one a month or so. And they will naturally create a theme given a picture book...flow with that! Blueberries for Sal...blueberry picking, playing bears, color blue, sorting fruit by color, counting blueberries, the b sound in bears and blueberries.
9. **Phonemic awareness is the key to phonics success!** Play sound games. Work w breaking apart and blending syllables. Rhyming. Find initial and final sounds. Blend sounds to make words and segment words into sounds. I love Sounds Abound as it uses classic picture books and does the brain work for me of phonemic awareness activities to go w it. I just do one activity a day.
10. **Bible time.** I use Bible storybooks throughout the day, especially for nap and night. My all-time favorite is the *Jesus Storybook Bible*. Best ever for kids and adults! I also tell them bunny stories set in Bible times for nap. But during breakfast we read the Word. Often a psalm and the next passage we’re on as we are reading through the Gospels. We talk about it and then pray. I have memory verses every two weeks for Rusty, every month for Cooper. I do a theme, this year’s theme is God Is, then We are —in Christ. Passages with it and verses support the theme. We read, discuss, talk about the theme, review our memory verses (say it through three times), then discuss a fruit of the Spirit. Finally, we echo read a short passage daily for a month or so...Psalm 23, John 1:1-5, now end of Romans 8:31-39. Rusty memorizes most of it but the goal is familiarity and intimacy w the passage. I push us here, this is where it matters most to me.

## 5 Ideas for Teaching History the Fun Way



1. **Look for the Story.** There is always a story that is interesting behind the scenes. I was teaching on World War I and teaching them the dry boring fact that Franz Ferdinand was shot. Then I thought, "There's got to be a story!" So I research and discovered a romantic story of a couple celebrating their anniversary. An attempt was made on their life in the morning, but it missed the young royal couple. However, people in the car behind them were seriously injured. Wanting to visit the folks that were hurt, the couple headed to the hospital in the afternoon. On the way, they were lured into a side street where they were ambushed and killed. As they lay dying, the archduke said, "Live, darling, live for the children" to his wife. Now that is a story behind a fact and it brings the fact to life.
2. **See God's Hand moving. God causes nations to rise and fall.** He answers prayer. He intervenes in the affairs of mankind. It is exciting to find evidence of intercessors and how God answered their prayers. When I was researching World War II for my *HIS Story of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century* textbook, I discovered intercessors at a

tiny Bible college in Wales and a young corpsman named Derek Prince. They prayed bold prayers and God answered them, turning the tide of the war.

3. **Get to know the people.** People from the pages of history are fascinating. Get to know devout Queen Victoria, forgetful G.K. Chesterton, energetic Winston Churchill, friendly and funny Ronald Reagan, emotional Eleanor of Aquitaine, crafty King John, polite George Washington, and efficient Dolley Madison bring life to the pages of history. Get to know the men and women who made history.
4. **Immerse yourself in the time period.** Travel back in time with food, music, art, customs, crafts, and art projects. I love to see photographs and paintings from yesteryear to get a feel for how things looked and how they dressed. Dressing up and acting events out can make you feel like you are way back there, part of the action.
5. **Throw a party!** We have had so much fun over the years with researching and throwing a party or event that ties everything together. Why not try a medieval banquet, archeological dig, Sock hop, Victorian tea, Passover feast, luau, air soft Battle of Hastings, day at the monastery, cattle round up, miniature golf, stage coach ride, Vaudeville show,

## 5 Methods for Mastering Math



1. **Do math every day** (at least 5 days per week). You'd be surprised how many parents and students have come to me desperate for help with many when all the student needed to do was math 5 times per week. When done correctly, math teaches new concepts every week. Sometimes even every day. You cannot remember these lessons unless you review them daily. It's like learning a new language.
2. **Memorize multiplication facts (0-12) forwards and backwards.** By that I mean they need to know that  $3 \times 5 = 15$  and you can get 15 by multiplying  $3 \times 5$ . This is called factoring. If student memorize this division becomes much much easier and factoring in higher math makes more sense. This will not only help student complete their math work faster, but also their science work. It will also help improve college entrance exam scores. It can even help them with household management and with many jobs.
3. **Use manipulative.** I love the ones made by Math-U-See, but you can make your own. Math needs to be made real and using objects which you can manipulate (manipulatives) does just that. I used to keep a fishbowl full of glass pebbles as a decorative item which I raided regularly when tutoring math students. Cut out strips of construction paper to make fractions.
4. **Do not stop asking questions until you really understand.** This advice is for student but also in a way for parents. Students get clear with your questions. If what the teacher is saying seems backwards, tell them how it seems it should work. That will help the teacher clear it up. Parents ask your students questions

about what they are doing and why so that they can show you that they understand.

5. **Make sure you fully understand fractions.** They never go away! Is the 40% off sale at one store really a better deal? Fractions. Did you actually get paid time and a half for working the extra hours? Fraction. For students fractions are what kills in College Algebra (aka. High School Algebra II).

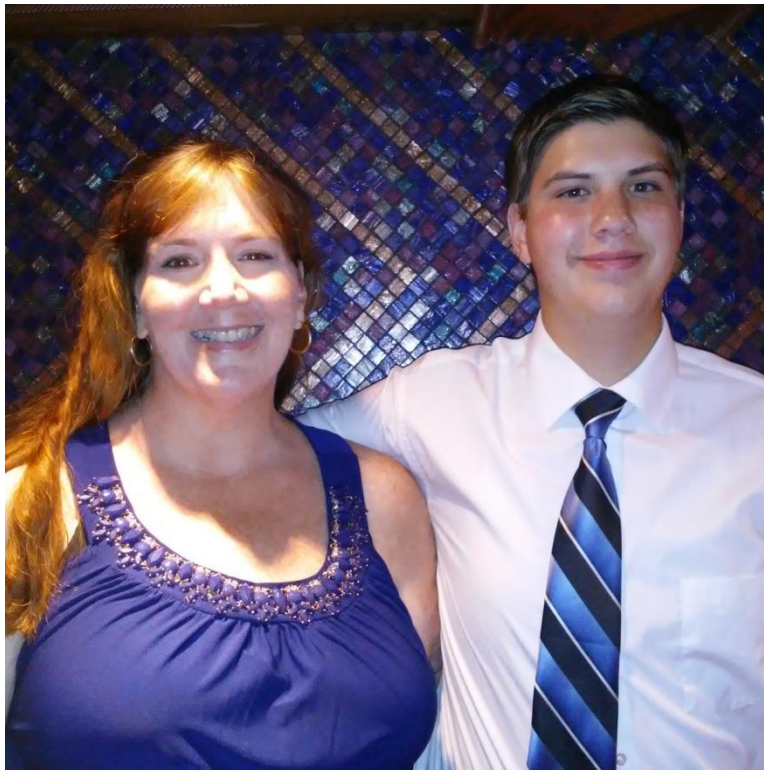
# 10 Ways to Build a Solid Relationship with Your Kids



1. **Listen to them.** Let them talk about what matters to them when they are little. If you listen to them in the younger years, they will want to open up to you when they are teens and adults.
2. **Don't use anything that they have shared in confidence against them later on in an argument.** Treasure their secrets and protect them. Guard your heart in your anger so that you do not crush their spirit or make them feel like a failure.
3. **Foster trust by always telling the truth.** Never lie, even about little things. Your children need to trust you, especially so that they know what you are teaching them about the Lord is true!
4. **Mean what you say and say what you mean.** If you have certain boundaries and your child crosses that, follow through with consequences no matter how difficult or inconvenient. This builds trust because your child knows you mean what you say. Children with boundaries grow up secure and happy.
5. **Find ways to enjoy their interest.** My son loves creepy crawly things, but going to zoos was out of our budget. We bought books and went to free days at museums. We would watch documentaries.
6. **Spend time with your children.** Children spell love T-I-M-E.
7. **Be a hero to your children, someone they can look up to.** Be the same when you are alone with your children as when you are around other people.



8. **Look for the best in your children.** Children and teens need so much encouragement. They need to know that there are two people in the world who think they are wonderful.
9. **Use their weaknesses to discover their strengths.** Sometimes a born leader can be bossy. Sometimes a loving, compassionate person can be overly emotional. You can look at your child and say, "Oh, he's so emotional!" or you can use that to discover why they are emotional. It's because they are so loving and compassionate. They care deeply about people. You can help them bring their emotions under the control of the Lord.
10. **Be affectionate.** Give your children lots of loving affection. Kiss them, hug them, pat them. Let your love be tangible.



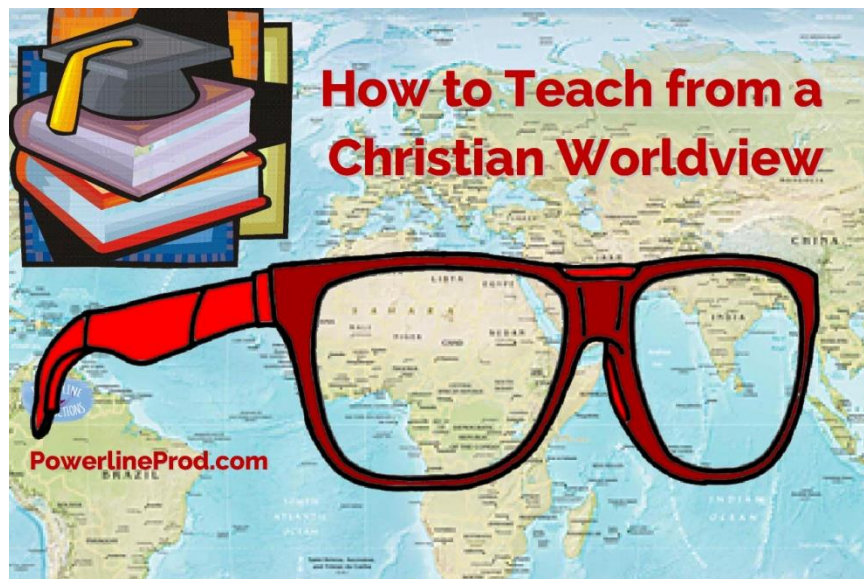
## 10 Field Trips that Don't Cost Money



1. **Park** – Many cities, counties, and states have parks which are free to visit. They usually have something education noted at the site. There are also a number of national parks throughout the country which are great to visit, but I don't know how many of them are actually free. Check their websites. Be on the lookout for special free days if they charge normally. Don't forget to look into botanical gardens as well. In Central Florida we have Leu Gardens and Bok Tower Gardens
2. **Playground** – Your local playground can be a great field trip for physical activity. It is also be a good place to find samples for science class or things to photograph or draw for art class. Can you imagine using playground equipment for physics (or physical science) experiments? I can!
3. **Beach** – The beach was always my favorite field trip. When I was a kid, we examined tidal pools among the rocky shore of California. As a homeschool mom I enjoyed walks along the water looking for whatever washed up on the Florida coast. We saw animals that looked like bottle caps and blue bottles. We saw fish swarm toward shore filling a wave with their bodies. We learned to spot a shark or dolphin, based on how many fins are out of the water. We've visited old lighthouses and new life-guard stations.
4. **Fire Station** – When my youngest son was still in pre-school, another mom and I worked with him and three of his peers to make cookies one day. We wrote cards of appreciation and took them all to the local fire station. The fire-fighters were very blessed by our visit. They were also very proud of their shiny clean station, which they showed to the children.

5. **Police Station** – We were blessed by an opportunity to visit the main police headquarters in our county one year. It was a special homeschool event where the police had pulled out all the stops for the kids. Don't wait for an event like that. Call your local station and request a day to visit. Bring some treats and cards of appreciation and let the pros teach your kids about safety.
6. **Free Day at Zoo** – Zoos have so many expenses, so it isn't surprising that they charge admission. Check with your nearest zoo and see if they offer a free day. If they do, it will be well worth working your schedule around theirs.
7. **Free Day at The Holy Land** – We live in central Florida where The Holy Land Experience is located. They offer one day each year that is admission-free. Go early and enjoy! If you don't live in Central Florida, look around your area for amusement parks which offer free days.
8. **Christmas Light Show** – Tis' almost the Season! Homes, communities, neighborhoods, and even cities do amazing Christmas decorations. One evening, load up the car with the family, warm drinks, and fun snacks and go find the most amazing Christmas Light Shows you can find.
9. **Historical Sites** – I have lived most of my adult life around historical sites. Everywhere I look there are plaques. The last time we visited Virginia we spent an entire day visiting one historical house after another. There was never a charge. We got great pictures and the properties and information about the site everywhere. My town has a historical downtown. City hall even has a hallway filled with historical photographs, each with explanations. We even have a couple of historical museums which allow free visits as well as mounting events which highlight the **history of the area**.
10. **Airport, Bus or Train Station** – I live very near to an international airport which used to be a US Naval base. It has quite a history. They have a monument park which features one of the aircraft that flew there 50 years ago. There is also have a couple of showcases highlighting the history of the base and the town. Check your local area. You might have to pay for parking so check on that before going. Bus and train stations sometimes have interesting histories that they have highlighted in fun ways. Check it out!

# 10 Tips for Teaching from a Christian Worldview



1. **Immerse yourself in the Scriptures.** Read, Obey, Listen to, Memorize, Meditate on, and Study the Word of God. The best way to impart truth to the next generation is to know it yourself. When the Word of God is in your heart, you can test what you see, read, and hear, comparing it with the truth.
2. **Surrender Yourself and Your Home School to Jesus.** Trust Him and ask Him to give you wisdom for educating your children and teach truth that lines up with His Word.
3. **Explore How the Bible Applies to All of Life and Every Academic Subject.** When you are studying a topic, look it up in the Bible so you can see how the Bible applies to all of life. *Understanding the Times* by David Noebel is a great resource.
4. **Know what a Christian Worldview is.** A worldview is like a set of glasses that you put on. When you read, hear, and see things, recognize the worldview. Is it Christian, Muslim, Humanist, Post-Modern, Marxist, or New Age?
5. **Build a library with books that are filled with true and literature that is written from a Christian worldview.**
6. **Use truly Christian Curriculum.** Just because something seems Christian or says it is written from a Christian worldview doesn't necessarily make it so. Read bios on the author and find out about the publishing company.

7. **Teach Creation Science** and use textbooks and materials for a Creation Science perspective.
8. **Teach Children the Creation Mandate** that was given to Adam and Eve on Day 6 of Creation. God commanded them to be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, rule over the earth and subdue the earth. Envision your children to grow up to rule and subdue by taking care of sick people, building bridges, inventing new technology, and taking the Gospel to the end of the earth. Instill in children a desire to honor Christ in all of life. Read Daniel chapter 1 about how he refused to defile himself when he was forced to be educated in the wicked Babylonian Empire.
9. **Teach Apologetics and Worldview to Preteens and Teens so that they can be prepared to give an answer to anyone who asks.** Many teens raised in Christian homes have doubts and questions. Don't be afraid of those questions. Answer them.
10. **Make Sure Children Know When you are Using Materials that Don't Line UP with Scripture.** When you use non-Christian books or materials, explain what is not correct in them and why.

# 5 Ways to Minister in Your Local Church Together



1. **Greet people on Sunday morning.** You can be an official part of the greeting team together or just say hello to people and ask how they are doing. This is great training for children to welcome others and grow in poise and confidence.
2. **Bring Meals to New Moms.** Everyone can contribute to the cooking, packaging, and delivery. Every new mom appreciates getting meals when she's recovering from the birthing process. It's a great way to teach kids to serve.
3. **Pray for Pastor & Leaders together as a family with a thankful heart.** You can also write notes of encouragement and hand deliver them. Be sure to remind pastors and leaders that you are praying for them.
4. **Host a Home Bible Study.** This is another great way to serve as family. Straightening the house, cleaning, preparing snacks, and greeting/welcoming people are staples of this ministry. One thing I like about hosting a Bible study is that I know my house will get cleaned once a week!
5. **Start a puppet ministry.** Invest in some puppets and put on little puppet skits in Sunday school. This will be really fun and a way to teach spiritual truths to your kids and help them impart those truths to others.

## 7 Tools to Give Lifelong Learners



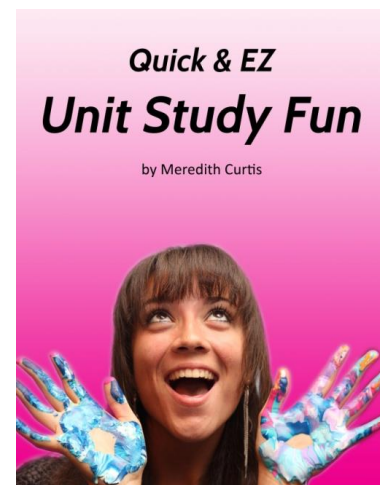
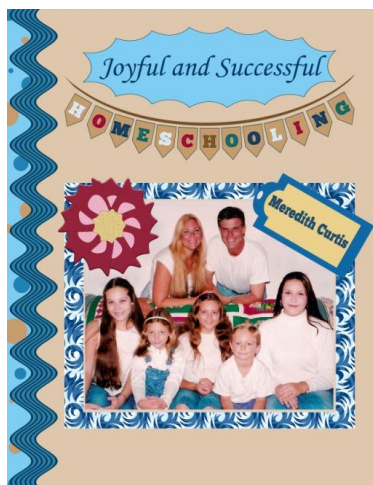
1. **Relationships.** Lives are changed in the context of relationships. When it gets right down to it, the most important thing in life is our relationship with Jesus and people. Everything else is not eternal.
2. **Reading.** God revealed Himself to us in the written Word, making reading an essential for walking with the Lord. Let your goal go beyond teaching children to read to raising adults who love to read. When it comes to books, think classics and living books. Also, provide time for children to read for pleasure.
3. **Arithmetic.** Teach children to both understand mathematics and to do math problems correctly with consistency. Do math at least 4-5 times a week, first thing. It's like a brain workout. Math is the foundation for every advanced level science so it a necessity to pursue medicine, health, engineering, computers, scientific research, and
4. **Writing.** Communication through writing is an essential skill in today's world. From storytelling to academic research, writing skills communicate to others what you know and what you need from them. From emails to essays, expose your children to a wide variety of writing experiences, cheering them on every step of the way.
5. **Research** can involve googling something or going to the library and checking out an armful of books. Research skills include skimming, reading, studying, note taking, summarizing, paraphrasing, citing sources, and presenting.
6. **Rhetoric/Communication** includes conversation skills, manners, and opportunities to speak in front of others. Children should develop poise and

confidence in this skill. We role play sharing the Gospel, interviewing, speaking up in college classes, resolving conflict, and initiating conversations.

7. **Right Living.** When the Lord is in charge of our lives, we live for Him. His ways are peaceful and productive. As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord. I like to instill habits and patterns that will set them up for success in living for Christ.

If children can have these seven R's in their tool box, they will be able to succeed at anything they put their hand to. These are the tool to learn effectively and experience joy and success in everything!

## Resources for Homeschooling with Joy & Success





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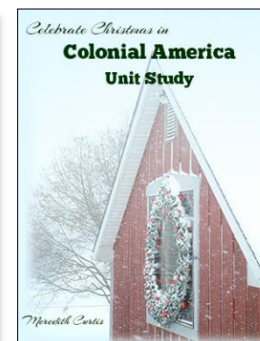
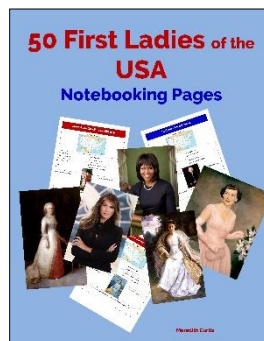
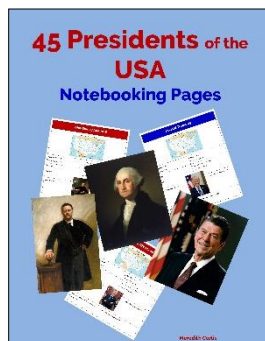
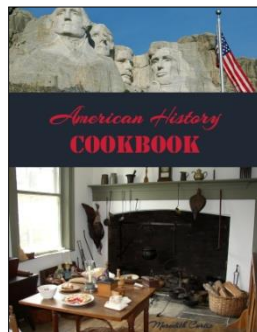
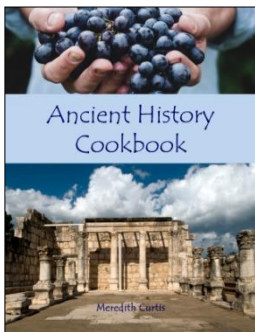
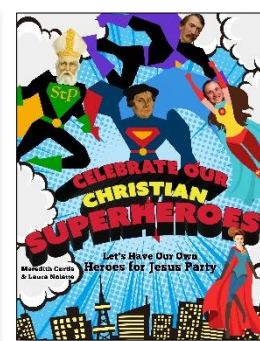
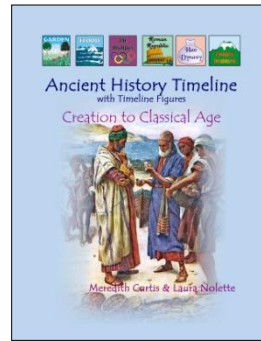
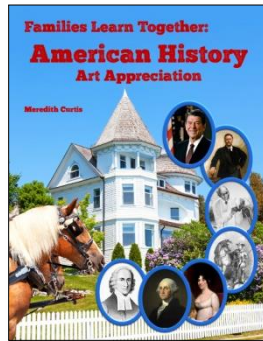
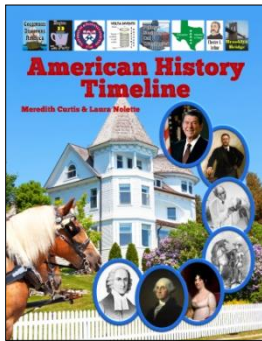
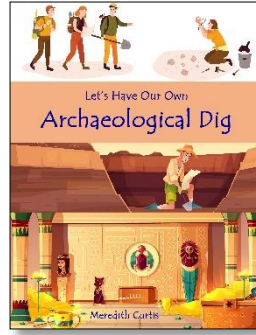
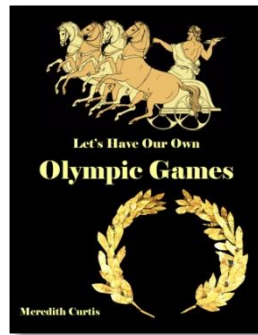
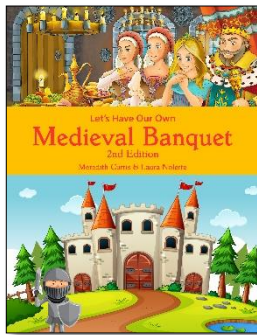
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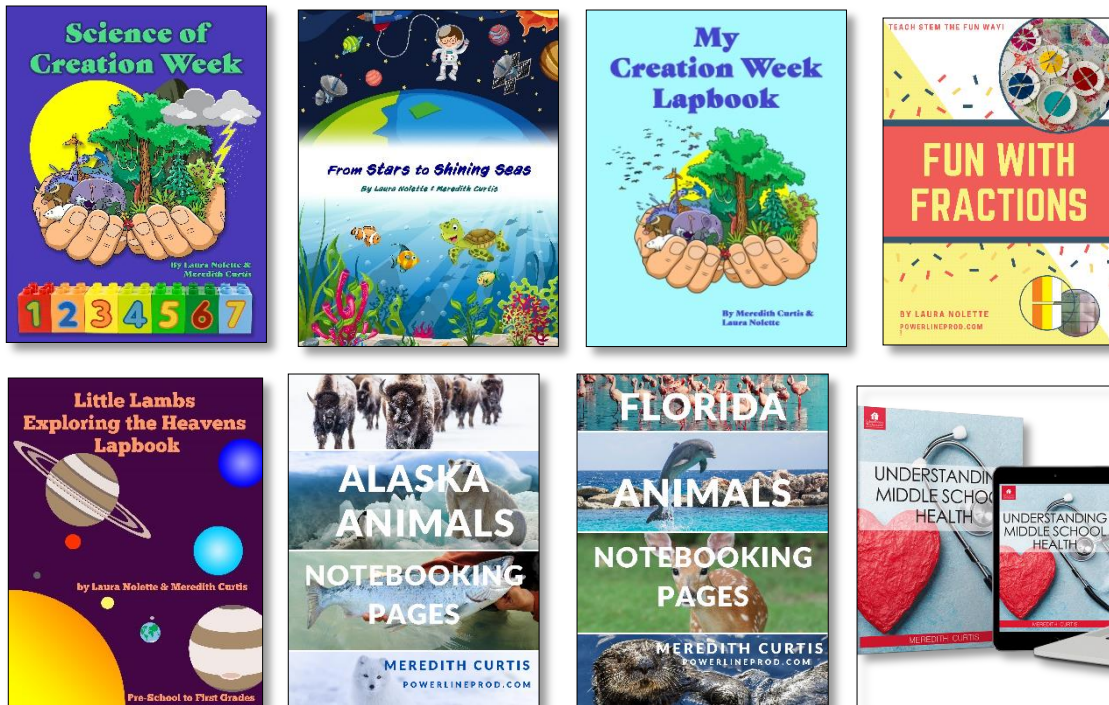
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